

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for engaging a wall panel with a structural member, comprising:

an upper perimeter framing member attached to an upper wall panel and

5           a lower perimeter framing member attached to a lower wall panel, the upper and lower perimeter framing members engaging one another at perimeter edges of the upper and lower wall panels to define a recess relative to the upper and lower wall panels, wherein at least one of the upper and lower perimeter  
10          framing members includes a plurality of drainage holes for the drainage of terrestrial fluids located inside of the at least one of the upper and lower perimeter framing members and at least one of the upper and lower perimeter framing members includes an capillary break projecting into the recess and  
15          positioned between the upper and lower wall panels and the plurality of drainage holes, positioned on the same side of the recess as the plurality of drainage holes, and spaced from the plurality of drainage holes to inhibit terrestrial fluids from entering the plurality of drainage holes.

20         2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a first space between a free end of the capillary break and an opposing wall

of the recess has a first vertical cross-sectional area and a second space between opposing walls of the recess at a point between the capillary break and the plurality of drainage holes has a second vertical cross-sectional area and the second vertical cross sectional area is at least about 125% of the first vertical cross sectional area.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a distance between the capillary break and a drainage hole is at least about 0.25 inches.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the centers of the plurality of drainage holes lie along a common axis.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a surface of the capillary break adjacent to the plurality of drainage holes is concave.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are spaced at regular intervals along the at least one of the upper and lower perimeter framing members.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the lower perimeter framing member and the capillary break is located on the upper perimeter framing member.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on a substantially horizontal  
45 surface.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the upper and lower perimeter framing members and the capillary break is located on the other of one of the upper and lower perimeter framing  
50 members.

10. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:  
an adjoining perimeter framing member attached to an adjoining wall panel, the adjoining perimeter framing member and adjoining wall panel being located beside and adjacent to  
55 the upper perimeter framing member and upper wall panel, wherein a flexible sheet, that is substantially impervious to terrestrial fluids, overlaps both the upper perimeter framing member and the adjoining perimeter framing member to inhibit the passage of terrestrial fluids between the adjoining and  
60 upper perimeter framing members.

11. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet is composed of silicone.

12. An apparatus for engaging a wall panel with a  
65 structural member, comprising:

an upper perimeter framing member attached to an upper  
wall panel and

a lower perimeter framing member attached to a lower wall  
panel, the upper and lower perimeter framing members engaging  
70 one another at perimeter edges of the upper and lower wall  
panels to define a recess relative to the upper and lower wall  
panels, wherein at least one of the upper and lower perimeter  
framing members includes a plurality of drainage holes for the  
drainage of terrestrial fluids located inside of the at least  
75 one of the upper and lower perimeter framing members and at  
least one of the upper and lower perimeter framing members  
includes blocking means for impeding the entry of terrestrial  
fluids into the plurality of drainage holes, the blocking  
means being spaced from the plurality of drainage holes.

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- 13. An apparatus for engaging a wall panel with a structural member, comprising:

an upper perimeter framing member attached to an upper wall panel and

85 a lower perimeter framing member attached to a lower wall panel, the upper and lower perimeter framing members engaging one another at perimeter edges of the upper and lower wall panels to define a recess relative to the upper and lower wall panels, wherein at least one of the upper and lower perimeter framing members includes a plurality of drainage holes for the drainage of terrestrial fluids located inside of the at least one of the upper and lower perimeter framing members and at least one of the upper and lower perimeter framing members includes an capillary break projecting into the recess and  
90 positioned between the upper and lower wall panels and the plurality of drainage holes, positioned on the same side of a horizontal line intersecting a free end of the capillary break as the plurality of drainage holes, and spaced from the plurality of drainage holes to inhibit terrestrial fluids from  
95 entering the plurality of drainage holes.

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